

News From the Falcons Nest



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President's Message by Kim Mathieu

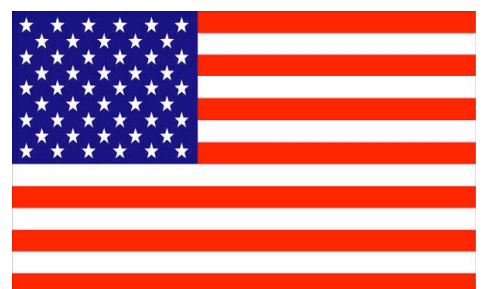
First and foremost I would like to wish Rick, Lan and family all the best. Rick, you are a hard act to follow. Thank you for all your hard work. Thank you for your belief that I can do this. Following in your footsteps is going to be difficult. I, along with the rest of the booster club wish you nothing but happiness in your future. This month has been quite an adventure for me. I am still feeling my way thru things and I would love any advice, feedback or suggestions anyone may have. The Falcons have been playing some exciting hockey this past month. With the team making its first visit to the Lone Star State, the office staff put on a wonderful tour of the Mass Mutual Center for the season ticket holders. The tour brought us thru the locker rooms. Then on to the media room where we got to make our own promo spots, which were shown on the jumbo-tron. Next it was on to the zamboni entrance, where we got a first hand look into the machines, as well as what the ice crew does on any given game night. Next, onto the press boxes, we also got a look at the new Perch seating. This new area added to the arena is for groups to enjoy a game together in a more relaxed atmosphere. We are looking into a speaker for the upcoming meetings and have suggestions we are working on.

If anyone has someone they are interested in hearing or a topic you would like to learn more about please let me know. Until next time...See you at the games!

January Meeting

Our January general membership meeting will be held at the Mass Mutual Center Club Room on Saturday **January 5, 2008 at 5:00 PM.** We hope to see you all there!

“Let us not forget”



2007 – 2008 Executive Board

If you would like to contact any member of the Executive Board, you can by the following telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| President: Rick McDonald | mcdonro@charter.net |
| Vice President: Lan McDonald | No Email address |
| Treasurer: Mickey Kober | spfldblkdog@verizon.net |
| Secretary: Dan Zglobicki | danzyl@charter.net |
| Social: Ann Harter | qharter@msn.com |
| Sunshine: Lorraine Bell | No Email address |
| Trips: Les Kimball | Sportsdad1715@msn.com |
| Broomball: Paul Desrosiers | pjdesrosiers2244@yahoo.com |
| Ways and Means: Ron Brault | Falcon490@aol.com |
| Membership: Lan McDonald | No Email address |
| Trophies and Awards: Ron Brault | Falcon490@aol.com |
| Newsletter: Rick McDonald | mcdonro@charter.net |
| Webmaster: TBD | No current Website |
| Scholarship: TBD | No Email address |

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Booster Club Members:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1/3 Lydia Mazella | 1/13 Danielle Parks | 1/20 Walter Mattson | 1/26 Alexa Pirnie |
| 1/7 Lise – Anne Grondin | 1/15 Eileen Krupczak | 1/21 Millie Yelle | 1/28 Joanne Dittbenner |
| 1/11 Kevin Belder | 1/ 16 Albert Packard | 1/22 Barry Kapino | 1/28 Karen Fay |
| 1/11 Sally Lundberg | 1/ 17 Juanita Vanasse | 1/23 Carl Bordas | 1/28 Luke Laczynski |
| 1/12 Janet Seaman | 1/18 Kevin Krupczak | 1/25 John Bottaro Jr. | 1/31 Logan Laczynski |
| 1/13 Jane Champagne | 1/18 Kevin Krupczak | 1/25 Phillip Bilski | 1/31 Mary Kaeding |
| 1/13 Jamie Lynn Felletter | 1/18 Beverly Gray | | |

Happy Birthday to Players throughout the Organization:

| | |
|--|--|
| 1/7 Stephane Goulet (Stockton Thunder) | 1/20 Dick Tarnstrom (Edmonton Oilers) |
| 1/9 Mathieu Garon (Edmonton Oilers) | 1/22 Brad Farynuk (Stockton Thunder) |
| 1/10 Robert Nilsson (Edmonton Oilers) | 1/25 Troy Bodie (Springfield Falcons) |
| 1/12 Tom Gilbert (Edmonton Oilers) | 1/27 Liam Reddox (Springfield Falcons) |

Falcons News

This month's Falcons news is somewhat of a different twist comparatively to what most usually see in this section. This month's issue sends a message to all that the greater Springfield community is being challenged to step up and show support for the Springfield Falcons as this is necessary to ensure a strong future for the team.



A Look from a Business Perspective

With all AHL teams having played approximately 30 games and approaching the half way mark to the season, some if not all teams begin to take a close look at the numbers. Some of these numbers include merchandise sales, group sales, ticket package sales, corporate sponsorships, and much more. Another number that can be seen by all, are numbers that often are painful not only team management, but players and fans who notice. This number is the attendance number. As of press time, there are 11 teams throughout the league averaging over 5,000 fans per night. There are eight teams that range between 4,000 to 5,000 and another eight teams in the 3,000 to 4,000 range. Unfortunately, there are two teams left in the league that are currently under the 3,000 fans per night average, and one of these teams are our Springfield Falcons. While it may not be common knowledge of precisely how much money a team must generate to make a profit or how many fans are needed in the seats to achieve this number, Springfield Falcons fans are well aware of the need for more people in the seats. It was not long ago when Roy Boe and company purchased our beloved Springfield Indians and moved the franchise to Worcester. At that time, it appeared as though hockey was lost in Springfield. Fortunately, a new ownership group was formed and the Springfield Falcons were formed. Attendance numbers grew to a very respectable average as the Falcons averaged 5,206 in the 97-98 season, 5,128 in the 98-99 season and 5,075 the following season. Apparently as time has gone by for one reason or another, attendance has not been at the numbers that were enjoyed in previous seasons. Some fans have said over the past few seasons that when a competitive team was on the ice, they will come. Well, the good news is this year's edition of Springfield Falcons is very competitive and there is no better time then now to get the word out so the people who have not been to a recent game can return and see for themselves that this is truly a fun night out for all ages. Several steps have been taken to increase numbers in attendance. Some of these initiatives include the addition of staff to work on promoting the team and increasing season ticket equivalents. Recently, Springfield Falcons President and General Manager Bruce Landon was quoted stating, "It has become imperative to ensure the long term viability of this franchise that we increase our full season ticket equivalents by a minimum of 500 with our goal of 750." It has now come time where Falcons fans must ask themselves, "What am I doing to keep hockey in Springfield?" If you are a Booster Club member or have a strong interest in the team as a fan, are you bringing a friend along with you to games? Are you making people you know who do not attend games anymore aware of the excitement of this year's edition of the Springfield Falcons? Somewhere in the community there are an average of 2,000 fans per night who are not coming to games compared to the attendance records of the late 1990s, so with that in mind, it should be everyone's goal to bring these 2,000 fans back where they belong, which is one of the best hockey cities in the league. The ownership has shown strong commitment year after year in keeping hockey in Springfield. It is now the time for fans and corporate sponsors to show they want hockey in Springfield.

New England Pathology Steps UP!!

The Springfield Falcons have begun an aggressive season ticket Campaign for the remainder of the season. They are currently Offering 20 games for only \$240.00. In conjunction with this, which Is already a great opportunity, New England Pathology, who operate At Life Laboratories in the Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, has Offered to pay the first \$100.00 of the first 50 season ticket packages That are sold. This means the first 50 fans who purchase these 20 Game packages will get them for only \$140.00 or \$7.00 per game! Chief of Pathology at New England Pathology recently stated, "this Community has to realize how important the Springfield Falcons are To this entire region and everyone must show their support. This is a tremendous opportunity for people to purchase tickets to Falcons games below normal cost greatly enhancing the Falcons hopes of reaching their goal of obtaining 750 more full season ticket equivalents. Thanks to New England Pathology for their part in supporting the Springfield Falcons!



Ticket Package Holders Night to be Held at Boston Billiards

The Springfield Falcons announced on December 19th that they will be holding this year's Meet the Players event for ticket package holders and corporate sponsors on January 9, 2008 at the Boston Billiards Club located 885 Riverdale St. West Springfield, Ma. from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Ticket package holders will have the opportunity to receive autographs from their favorite Falcons players and play pool. Children are welcome for this event and **anyone interested in attending must RSVP by calling the Falcons office at (413) 739-3344 by Friday, January 4th.**

A Look at January

As of press time, the Falcons have gone 4 – 4 with an added shoot out loss in December. January will be a challenging month as the Falcons will be on the road more than at home as they will be at the nest 5 times out of 11 scheduled contests. Of the 11 games scheduled, only two games will be outside the division as they visit the Bridgeport Sound Tigers on January 12th and will be at the Giant Center in Hershey on January 19th facing the Hershey Bears. Divisional play includes three match ups with the Providence Bruins, two with the Lowell Devils, and two with the Worcester Sharks. The Falcons will also host the Portland Pirates on January 5th, and the Hartford Wolf Pack on January 18th.

Transaction Report:

12/1 Edmonton Oilers recalled center Patrick Thoresen from the Springfield Falcons

12/6 Edmonton Oilers recalled Liam Reddox from the Springfield Falcons.

12/8 Edmonton Oilers reassigned Liam Reddox to the Springfield Falcons.

12/10 Springfield Falcons recalled Jonas Almtorp from the Stockton Thunder of the ECHL.

12/13 Edmonton Oilers reassigned defenseman Allan Rourke to the Springfield Falcons.

12/19 Springfield Falcons assigned Jonas Almtorp to the Stockton Thunder of the ECHL.

12/19 Edmonton Oilers assigned defenseman Danny Syvret to the Canadian National Team.

12/22 Edmonton Oilers recalled goaltender Jeff Deslauriers from the Springfield Falcons.

12/22 Springfield Falcons recalled goaltender Glenn Fisher from the Stockton Thunder of the ECHL.

Booster Club News

Have you forgotten to renew your membership? If you have forgotten to renew, please go to the Booster Club table at home games or simply fill out the membership form located in this newsletter.

Booster Club Meeting Notes from December 8th

The December meeting was held on December 8th with approximately 40 members attending. During this meeting, Bruce Landon addressed the club noting that the Falcons were embarking on an aggressive season ticket equivalent sales campaign in an effort to reach a goal of 750 season ticket equivalents. Also during this meeting the election was held to fill the offices of President as well as Vice President to carry out the terms of Rick and Lan McDonald. The Club was also asked if there were any ideas for events the Club could have. This was just some of the items covered in the December meeting. Please consider getting involved in YOUR club and have fun with upcoming events and attending upcoming meetings.

Election Results

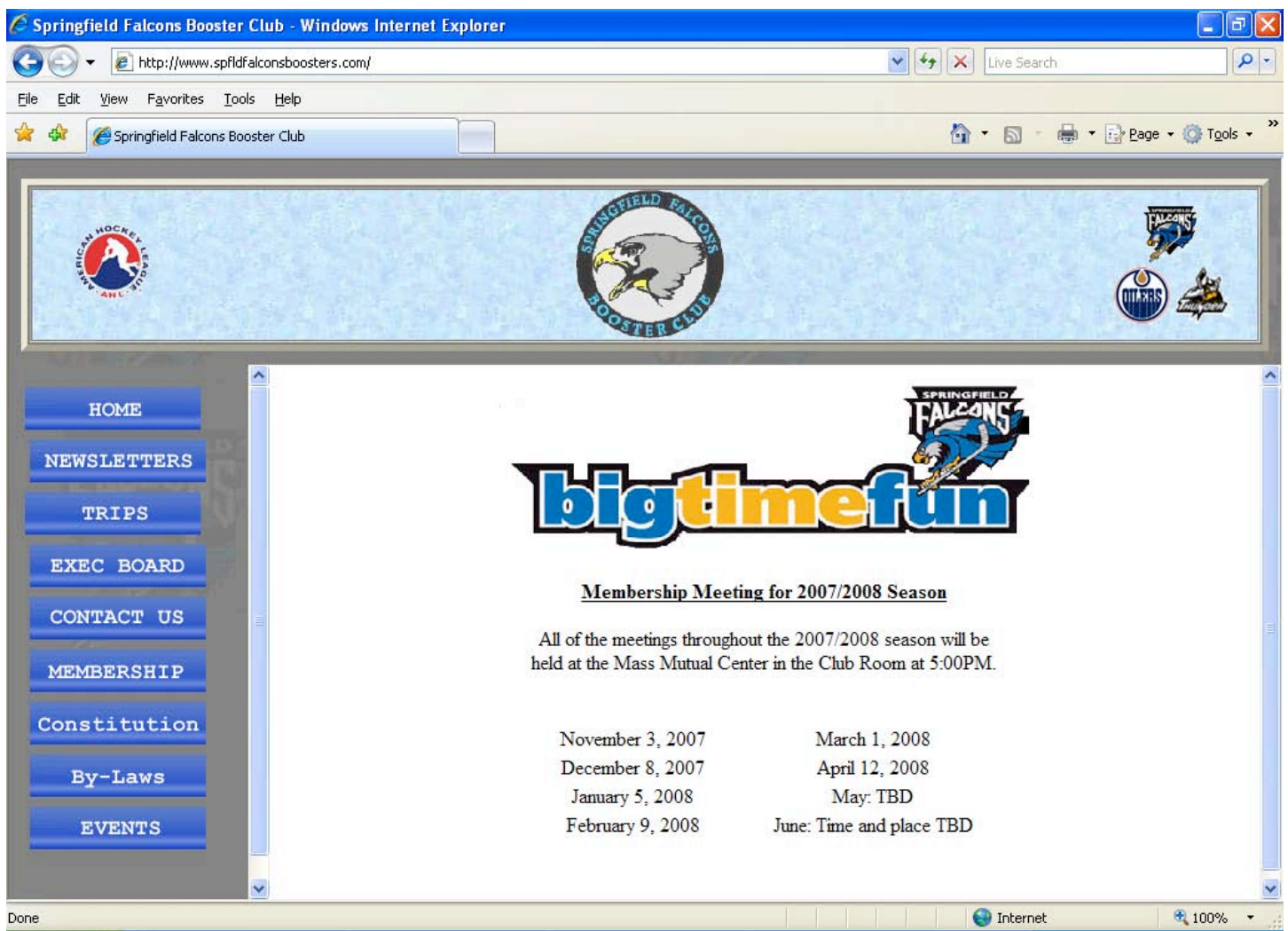
The Springfield Falcons Booster Club is proud to announce to results of the elections held on December 8, 2007 for the offices of President and Vice President. Elected into office into the President position and running unopposed was Kim Mathieu. Kim has participated in various functions with the club including trips and the Annual Golf Tournament that is run by the Falcons. As President, Kim duties will include but are not limited to presiding at all meetings, and performing duties as directed by Club membership.

Elected into the office of Vice President was Ruth Atwell. Ruth has been an active member in the Booster Club for many years taking part in functions and selling 50/50 raffle tickets at meetings and at home games. As Vice President, she will assume the role of membership and will also chair the Nomination Committee.

These positions were to fulfill the remainder of the terms held by Rick and Lan and not for the customary two year positions which are filled during May meetings. Kim Mathieu's term will expire in May of 2008 whereas Ruth Atwell's term will expire in May of 2009.

The Web Site is UP and RUNNING!

Well after years away from the world wide web, the Springfield Falcons Booster Club now has a web site! This will enable everyone with a computer to get information on the Booster Club in a much more quick and efficient manner. The web site can be found at www.spfldfalconsboosters.com. This site provides previous newsletters, trip information, the Club Constitution and Bylaws, and more. Many thanks go out to Rick Josefek for his efforts in getting this going as without him we would still not have a site. Rick has mentioned that as events or news come up, he will update the site making this a good site to refer to for current information. If you have suggestions, please forward them for review as with everyone's input the site will only get better. Again, thanks to Rick Josefek and OUTSTANDING JOB! A picture of the home page is below:



The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website for the Springfield Falcons Booster Club. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.spfldfalconsboosters.com/>. The website features a navigation menu on the left with buttons for HOME, NEWSLETTERS, TRIPS, EXEC BOARD, CONTACT US, MEMBERSHIP, Constitution, By-Laws, and EVENTS. The main content area has a header with logos for the American Hockey League (AHL), the Springfield Falcons Booster Club, and the Springfield Falcons. Below the header is a large graphic with the text "bigtimefun" and a logo of a hockey player. The main heading is "Membership Meeting for 2007/2008 Season". A paragraph states: "All of the meetings throughout the 2007/2008 season will be held at the Mass Mutual Center in the Club Room at 5:00PM." A table lists the meeting dates:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| November 3, 2007 | March 1, 2008 |
| December 8, 2007 | April 12, 2008 |
| January 5, 2008 | May: TBD |
| February 9, 2008 | June: Time and place TBD |

The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and "Internet" with a 100% zoom level.

Newsletter Information

Do you have a message you would like put in the newsletter? If you know of someone who is suffering from illness or has experienced a death in the family, engagement/wedding, or has a new birth to report, or if you would like to write an article for the newsletter regarding a Booster Club event (such as trips, parties, conventions, etc) or something related to the Springfield Falcons, please email your information to Rick McDonald. His email address is mcdonro@charter.net.

AHL Booster Club Convention

The 44th Annual Association of American Hockey League Booster Clubs Convention will be held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania on September 5th – 7th 2008 hosted by the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins Booster Club. Prices are: \$165 for Quads, \$180 for Triples, \$210 for Doubles, and \$320 for Singles. All of these prices are for standard rooms with one king size bed or two double beds. These prices also include meals on Friday and Saturday nights and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. A **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit is due to the Booster Club by **MARCH 1st** with the balance due by **May 15th**. Please note there is a change in when payment and deposits are due from previous years (Deposits are due two months earlier and full payment is due six weeks earlier). Registration forms for this fun filled event can be picked up at the Booster Club tables located under section 18 at the Mass Mutual Center. Don't miss an excellent opportunity to meet people from the many Booster Clubs and get in on the fun. You will be glad you attended and will never want to miss another!

Trips

Les Kimball, our trip coordinator, has once again put together a very exciting schedule for trips this season. The schedule features a multi-game trip to Wilkes Barre/Scranton and Binghamton. The road trip schedule gives fans an opportunity to see the Hershey Bears, and the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins a second time as they are only playing in Springfield once this season. Here is the tentative schedule planned for the 2007 – 2008 season.

January 19, 2008: Hershey Bears

March 2, 2008: Manchester Monarchs

February 2, 2008: Lowell Devils

April 4 and 5, 2008: Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins and
Binghamton Senators

Scholarships

One of the purposes under the Springfield Falcons Booster Club's Constitution is to provide a scholarship(s) to qualified applicants. The Booster Club is currently accepting applications from prospective winners of this scholarship award until March 1, 2008. Applicants must be members of the Booster Club or relatives of the Club also per the Constitution.

Within the Organization

Stockton Thunder News

Unfortunately, the Stockton Thunder have continued to suffer from inconsistency. Despite the fact that several changes were made throughout the month of December. Amongst the changes were bringing back veteran defenseman Tim O'Connell out of retirement. O'Connell did provide some leadership to the team and was a welcomed addition to the team. O'Connell, who played the entire season with the Thunder played in his 500th career game on December 21st and had also played in 408 consecutive games prior to announcing his retirement at the end of last season. Another person the Thunder called upon in an attempt to bring some consistency back to the team was Fred Mills, although Mills is not a hockey player, nor is he a coach. Fred Mills is a local sports psychology consultant who spoke with players about the mental aspect of the game. Goaltending coach Pete Peters as well as Oilers Vice President of Hockey Operations Kevin Prendergast also paid visits to see the Thunder as the Oilers have nine players under contract there. Consistency did not seem to improve however as the Thunder as of press time was 3 – 5 on the month. The whole month was not bad for the Thunder. December 12, the Thunder made history as they won for the first time in Alaska overtaking the Alaska Aces in exciting fashion. In that game former Falcon Stephane Goulet tied the game with only 42 seconds remaining and Brad Farynuk netted the game winner 49 seconds into overtime beating the Aces 4 – 3. The ECHL All Star Game will be played this season at the home of the Thunder and there will be Thunder representation as Ryan O'Marra, Brad Farynuk, and Jacob Micflickier will all be representing the Thunder in what promises to be a very exciting night in Stockton. O'Marra currently leads the team in goals with 11 and Micflickier leads the team in points with 33.



Oilers 1st Rounder Returns to Line Up for Hitmen

While Oilers first round pick Sam Gagner is doing quite well for himself. For the Edmonton Oilers, another 2007 first round pick (15th overall) is Alex Plante. Plante attended Oilers camp and sustained a back injury that held him to only 2 games played until returning to the line up on December 1st. Plante is the son of Cam Plante who holds the WHL Record for most points in a single season by a defenseman. Alex However, does not play the same style as he stands 6' 5" and weighs in at 225 pounds. Alex plays a stay at home style of play and through 9 games has collected 1 goal and one assist. Plante will be working on mobility as the season progresses and with any luck will stay off the injured list.



SPRINGFIELD FALCONS BOOSTER CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2007 – 2008 SEASON

SEND IN PAYMENT FOR RENEWAL AND PICK UP MEMBERSHIP CARD(S) AT OR AFTER THE FIRST HOME GAME.

NEW MEMBER PRICING

- NEW ADULT: \$15.00 E-MEMBER: \$5.00 (SEE BELOW)
 NEW JUNIOR \$6.00 NEW FAMILY: \$25.00 (2 Adults & Children under 18 years)

IF PAID BY THIRD GAME OF THE SEASON, NEW ADULT PRICE WILL BE \$12.00

RENEWAL PRICING

- ADULT \$12.00 JUNIOR \$6.00 FAMILY \$25.00 (2 Adults & Children under 18 years)

IF PAID BY THIRD GAME OF THE SEASON, ADULT RENEWAL PRICE WILL BE \$10.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

BIRTHDAY _____ DATE JOINED _____

SIGNED UP BY: _____ ARE YOU A TICKET PACKAGE HOLDER? _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP IS 3 OR MORE FAMILY MEMBERS AT SAME ADDRESS (2 Adults & Children under 18 years)

PLEASE LIST BELOW WITH THEIR BIRTHDAYS, JUNIOR MEMBERS YEAR OF BIRTH IS ALSO REQUIRED.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL? YES (Recommended) NO
(Sending newsletters via email helps keep cost of printing, processing, and postage within reason)

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

E-MEMBER: OFFERED TO FALCONS FANS LIVING MORE THAN 100 MILES AWAY.

E-MEMBERS HAVE NO VOTING RIGHTS, NO MEMBER DISCOUNTS ON BUS TRIPS, AND WILL NOT RECEIVE MAILED NEWSLETTERS. E-MEMBERS CAN ATTEND ALL OTHER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

LIST NAMES AND BIRTHDAYS OF FAMILY MEMBERS BELOW:

NAME _____ BIRTHDAY _____ NAME _____ BIRTHDAY _____

NAME _____ BIRTHDAY _____ NAME _____ BIRTHDAY _____

YOU CAN RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT ANY HOME GAME THROUGH THE END OF NOVEMBER AT THE BOOSTER CLUB TABLE OR MAIL APPLICATION TO:

**Springfield Falcons Booster Club
P.O. Box 1285
Springfield, Ma. 01101**

Springfield Falcons Booster Club

P.O. Box 1285

Springfield, Ma. 01101



Membership Meetings for 2007/2008 Season

All of the meetings throughout the 2007/2008 season will be held at the Mass Mutual Center in the Club Room at 5:00.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| January 5, 2008 | April 12, 2008 |
| February 9, 2008 | May: TBD |
| March 1, 2008 | June: Time and place TBD |

Mario Cantallini from the Plantation Inn located at the end of Interstate 291 in Chicopee, has graciously allowed us to use the parking lot of the Plantation Inn for our bus trips. Please try to patronize his establishment as much as possible whenever you need to find lodging for friends and relatives coming into town.



OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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